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LB 956

probably the most likely to succeed because we know that it's already succeeded before and, you know, you might want to talk about whether it should...these salaries should be higher or not, but this is...I think this is a doable one. I would like to mention that Nebraska is dead last. We are 50th in the pay that we give to our Governor. I passed out a chart several weeks ago when we almost got to the bill and you will notice that New York is the highest one at \$130,000, Nebraska is last at \$65,000. But scattered in-between there we've got South Dakota at \$84,740; little Wyoming out there at \$95,000; Kansas at \$85,225. So I think we're out of sync with our next-door neighbors even, and I could go through all of that with you, talk about all the salaries and the relationship to other states, but I won't. I don't want to take more time than is necessary, but I would like to call your attention to the South Sioux City Star editorial, which I just distributed, and I think it's really good. It not only compares state salaries to other state salaries, but it takes a look at Dakota County's Attorney salary. It's greater than the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary of State. And, while the Dakota County Attorney campaigns in the relatively small area of 1 county, the occupants of the state offices must campaign in 93 counties. It says recently Sarpy County had a county attorney opening which attracted the application of a Dakota County Attorney, and at least one of the potential candidates for the Sarpy County position said the \$65,000 a year salary was not enough. Let's look at another approach, it goes on. There are 26 agency and department heads in Nebraska, all of whom are paid...all of whom are paid more than the State Treasurer, and that includes department of DEQ, DHHS, Water Resources, and so forth. So I would say to you this is long overdue. To some degree, we get what we pay for. That's something my parents always told me, and it is much more likely that we keep good quality elected officials if we compensate them somewhat rationally, and I think particularly if we want to make the office available to people across all economic strata we have to pay a decent salary. With that, I would simply ask for your advancement of this bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. On the advancement of LB 956, Senator Chambers.